

17 September 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD: Tom Cormack, Executive Secretary

FROM : Ken McDonald, Chief Historian

SUBJECT : Studies in Intelligence

1. As we discussed last week, I would be glad to take responsibility for Studies in Intelligence in the History Staff, where I think the journal could prosper.

2. In the original 1955 prospectus for Studies in Intelligence its founder, Sherman Kent, noted that intelligence, like most professions, had taken on the aspects of a discipline. It had developed, he wrote, a recognized methodology and vocabulary, a body of theory and doctrine, as well as elaborate and refined techniques. "It now has a large professional following," he observed; "What it lacks is a literature."

3. In the past 25 years Studies in Intelligence and the History Staff have both done a good deal to develop the literature of intelligence. Both, however, are capable of doing a lot more for the discipline and profession. Since the scholarly work of the journal and the History Staff are closely related, both in purpose and character, I think that they might most productively develop together in one office, rather than apart as two separate enterprises.

4. I should add that Studies in Intelligence publishes a good deal of historical work, much of which is no doubt solicited or commissioned by the editor. In recent years there has not been much reason for the editor to consult with the History Staff. Now that the History Staff is re-established, however, it would make sense to have it responsible for the general direction, or at least coordination, of all the historical work undertaken in the Agency.

5. In any event, I would like to see some of the History Staff's shorter studies and excerpts from longer works in progress published in Studies in Intelligence. This would be an excellent way to make our studies available sooner and to a wider audience than would otherwise be possible. The History Staff would also be strengthened by the added talent of [ ] the new editor of Studies in Intelligence, and by access to the experience and counsel of the journal's distinguished Editorial Board.

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6. Finally, as I noted last week, if Studies in Intelligence is incorporated in the History Staff, we would like to take that occasion to examine carefully the present character and direction of the journal and reader response to it. This would help us determine both how it can better serve its clientele, and how we can most effectively integrate it into a larger program of the History Staff.

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J.K. McDonald

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